

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.22

service. Award may be made to a member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, after June 1, 1962, distinguishes himself or herself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service, which has been of mutual benefit to a friendly nation and the United States.

(1) Awards of the ARCOM may be made for acts of valor performed under circumstances described above which are of lesser degree than required for award of the Bronze Star Medal. These acts may involve aerial flight.

(2) An award of the ARCOM may be made for acts of non-combat related heroism, which do not meet the requirements for an award of the Soldier's Medal.

(3) The ARCOM will not be awarded to general officers.

(4) Awards of the ARCOM may be made on letter application to NPRC (see § 578.16(a)(3) for address), to any individual commended after December 6, 1941 and before January 1, 1946 in a letter, certificate, or order of commendation, as distinguished from letter of appreciation, signed by an officer in the grade or position of a major general or higher. Awards of the Army Commendation Ribbon and of the Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant are re-designated by DAGO 10, March 31, 1960, as awards of the ARCOM, without amendments of certificates or of orders previously issued.

(5) The Commander, Eighth U.S. Army is authorized to award the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service to Korean Augmentation to U.S. Army (KATUSA) personnel.

(b) *Description.* On a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch bronze hexagon, one point up, an American bald eagle with wings displayed horizontally grasping three crossed arrows and bearing on its breast a shield paly of 13 pieces and a chief. On the reverse between the words "For Military" and "Merit" a panel, all above a sprig of laurel. A moired silk ribbon 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of stripes of white ($\frac{3}{32}$ -inch), green ($\frac{25}{64}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), green ($\frac{1}{16}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), green ($\frac{1}{16}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), green ($\frac{1}{16}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), green ($\frac{25}{64}$ -inch), and white ($\frac{3}{32}$ -inch).

§ 578.21 Army Achievement Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) was established by the Secretary of the Army, April 10, 1981. It is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or to any member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation, who while serving in any capacity with the Army distinguished himself or herself by meritorious service or achievement of a lesser degree than required for award of the Army Commendation Medal under the following circumstances:

(1) After August 1, 1981, for meritorious service or achievement while serving in a non-combat area.

(2) On or after September 11, 2001, for non-combat meritorious achievement or service.

(b) The AAM will not be awarded to general officers.

(c) *Description.* A Bronze octagonal medal, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with one angle at the top centered. On the obverse is a design consisting of the elements of the DA plaque and the date "1775" at the bottom. On the reverse, in three lines, are the words "FOR MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT" above a space for inscription and below there are two slips of laurel. The moired ribbon is 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide and consists of the following stripes: $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Green 67129; $\frac{1}{16}$ inch White 67101; $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Green; $\frac{1}{16}$ inch White; $\frac{3}{32}$ inch Ultramarine Blue 67118; center $\frac{1}{16}$ inch White; $\frac{3}{32}$ inch Ultramarine Blue; $\frac{1}{16}$ inch White; $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Green; $\frac{1}{16}$ inch White; and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Green.

§ 578.22 Prisoner of War Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The POW Medal is authorized by Public Law 99-145, 10 U.S.C. 1128, November 8, 1985, as amended by 10 U.S.C. 1128, November 29, 1989. It is authorized for any person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, was taken prisoner and held captive after April 5, 1917.

(1) The POW Medal is to be issued only to those U.S. military personnel and other personnel granted creditable U.S. military service, who were taken prisoner and held captive—

(i) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.

(ii) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.

(iii) While serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(iv) By foreign armed forces that are hostile to the United States, under circumstances which the Secretary concerned finds to have been comparable to those under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces during periods of armed conflict.

(2) U.S. and foreign civilians who have been credited with U.S. military service which encompasses the period of captivity are also eligible for the medal. The Secretary of Defense authorized on January 27, 1990, the POW Medal for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Recognized Guerrilla Unit Veterans who were held captive between December 7, 1941, and September 26, 1945. DD Form 2510-1 (Prisoner of War Medal Application/Information-Philippine Commonwealth Army and Recognized Guerrilla Veterans) was developed as the application for Filipino Veterans who fit this category.

(3) For purposes of this medal, past armed conflicts are defined as World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam Conflict, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf War, and Somalia. Hostages of terrorists and persons detained by governments with which the United States is not engaged actively in armed conflict are not eligible for the medal.

(4) Any person convicted of misconduct or a criminal charge by a U.S. military tribunal, or who receives a less than honorable discharge based upon actions while a prisoner of war, or whose conduct was not in accord with the Code of Conduct, and whose actions are documented by U.S. military records is ineligible for the medal. The Secretary of the Army is the authority for deciding eligibility in such cases.

(5) No more than one POW Medal will be awarded. For subsequent award of the medal, service stars will be awarded and worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal. A period of captivity terminates on return to U.S.

military control. Escapees who do not return to U.S. military control and are recaptured by an enemy do not begin a new period of captivity for subsequent award of the POW Medal. (Service stars are described in § 578.61.)

(6) The POW Medal may be awarded posthumously.

(7) The primary next of kin of eligible prisoners of war who die in captivity may be issued the POW Medal regardless of the length of stay in captivity.

(8) Personnel officially classified as Missing in Action (MIA) are not eligible for award of the POW Medal. The POW Medal will only be awarded when the individual's prisoner of war status has been officially confirmed and recognized as such by the DA. Likewise, the return of remains, in and of itself, does not constitute evidence of confirmed prisoner of war status.

(b) *Award of the POW Medal to active military personnel, veterans, retirees and their next of kin—(1) Active Military Personnel.* Award of the POW Medal to military personnel in an active war will be processed by the Commander, USA HRC (see § 578.3 (c)), after coordination with the Repatriation and Family Affairs Division.

(2) Veterans, retirees and their next of kin. All requests for the POW Medal will be initiated by eligible former POWs, or their next of kin, using a personal letter or DD Form 2510 (Prisoner of War Medal Application/ Information). Applications should be forwarded to the NPRC (see § 578.16(a)(3) for address).

(c) *Description.* A purple heart within a Gold border, 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, containing a profile of General George Washington. Above the heart appears a shield of the Washington Coat of Arms (a White shield with two Red bars and three Red stars in chief) between sprays of Green leaves. The reverse consists of a raised Bronze heart with the words "FOR MILITARY MERIT" below the coat of arms and leaves. The ribbon is 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide and consists of the following stripes: $\frac{1}{8}$ inch White 67101; 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches Purple 67115; and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch White 67101.